

with this at all. What we are, we still have the same people out there being served that need this kind of help. It is not, in fact, being cut back. This simply applies to people who are serving people. It has very little to do with the scope of government. The scope of government would mean, in my opinion, that you would cut out the Department of Social Services, not close some offices that cost you nothing in the first place. I would suggest you keep that in mind. My good neighbor here mentioned, or I guess it was Senator Hannibal mentioned that in one office there were only two people being served up in Senator Lamb's district. Well, we checked the numbers. Here again maybe some of us on the floor know something that is important as it relates to this issue. In the offices that will be closed there are 2,671 cases, 2,671 people. In the offices that are remaining open part-time there are 2,368 people. So, yes, Senator Higgins, there are an awful lot of people who are being served in these areas and by these offices. We are also, in a sense, giving someone almost kind of a threat that we shouldn't dabble in these kinds of things. Balderdash. All of you folks, I say, what else do you have to do that is more important than to understand what is happening in state government, not just relegate your responsibility to an Appropriations Committee, or Health and Human Services Committee, or anybody else? Get involved, find out what these cuts mean, do something about it and understand it. I think some of us do. It is kind of interesting that Senator Hannibal, who represents the richest district in the whole state, the richest, probably really isn't concerned whether poor folks get served or not, and we've got the jobs in Omaha, but some of us do, Ernie Chambers and some of the rest, Tim Hall has some people and constituents that need help. All I can say is, ladies and gentlemen, everything you've heard so far means nothing, does not effect the issue. The sanctions are real, believe me they are real and this is important that we continue this program. It has been mentioned a number of times they are spending 350 some million dollars. I think we ought to have enough staff on hand, when we are spending that kind of money, to know what we are doing and not take risks with \$8 million worth of sanctions. I suggest you move this bill forward to Final Reading.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you, Senator Lynch. Senator Hannibal on the advancement of the bill.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I realize we spent an awful lot of time on this. I will try to make my remarks very brief. I do feel it is quite important